

# Public Notice: Request for Comments



## Notice of Request to Construct and Operate Ore Processing by Cyanidation. Draft Permit #CN-000030. Desert Mineral Mining LLC, Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 4 East, Elmore County, Idaho. [Docket #: CN-0405]

Department of Environmental Quality  
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Boise, ID 83706-1255

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### Notice Issued:

December 4, 2004

### What is the purpose of this notice?

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is providing public notice that Desert Mineral Mining, LLC (DMM) has requested a permit to construct and operate facilities to process ore according to the Rules Governing Ore Processing by Cyanidation. DMM's proposed facilities would be located Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 4 East, Elmore County, Idaho, near Three Points Mountain along the Blacks Creek Road. DEQ has reviewed DMM's application. DEQ has determined that with existing knowledge and information, and supplemental information contained in DMM's application, DEQ can draft a permit for this proposed facility.

Prior to DEQ approving a final permit, you (the public), state and federal agencies, and the applicant, are being given the opportunity to comment on DMM's application package and the draft permit which is being prepared by DEQ.

### What are the Proposed Actions?

DMM is proposing to construct and operate a "small mineral ore processing facility". This facility would process up to 100 tons per day, or 36,500 tons per year for up to 5 years (120,000 tons). DMM intends to process by crushing ore and treating it in an enclosed Thompson Mill system, which would be located within primary and secondary containment systems. Gold from cyanide leachate would be precipitated on carbon columns, which would be periodically stripped using alcohol, and then plated onto steel wool through an electrowinning process. The steel wool and gold would then be separated by melting them in a refinery process. Tailings

from the cyanidation process would be neutralized using sodium hypochlorite, and then discharged to a lined tailings impoundment. DMM has proposed that keeping the system (other than the tailings impoundment) enclosed, and maintaining a minimal water balance will ensure that no treated process waste water will be discharged to surface or ground water. DMM has proposed operating procedures for transportation use and disposal of all chemicals and deleterious materials, including solid wastes. DMM has also proposed procedures and criteria for seasonal and permanent closure of the facilities.

**What permit conditions are affected?** The entire draft Permit is available for public review and comment. The draft may, prior to issuance of a final permit, be subject to change based on the public concerns and comments.

### Where can I get more information?

**In person:** Desert Mineral Mining LLC's application is currently available at the Idaho DEQ State Office located at 1410 North Hilton, in Boise, Idaho. A Draft Permit #CN-000030 may be also be reviewed at the Idaho DEQ State Office beginning December 4, 2004. The contents of the application, with the exception of engineering drawings, and the draft Permit #CN-000030 may be viewed at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public/comment.cfm>

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### When are public comments due?

Public comment(s) on the draft modified permit are due on January 3, 2005.

### Who will be responsible for implementing this Permit?

Mr. Dan J. Terzo  
Desert Mineral Mining LLC  
and Laguna Pacific Partners LLC  
327 Aster Street  
Laguna Beach, California 92651

### Who is the issuing office?

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706

### What are DEQ's responsibilities?

The Idaho DEQ is the regulatory agency that helps protect and enhance Idaho's water quality. As a result of this proposal, DEQ and DMM have met in pre-application conferences to discuss the concepts of the proposal, potential permit conditions, and the public participation process.

### What legal requirements apply?

Idaho's rules require that DEQ provide an owner or operator and the public, through a newspaper notice, the opportunity to submit written comments on the application, notice of any public meetings scheduled, whether or not an application is denied or DEQ intends to issue a modified permit, or whether or not DEQ's actions have been appealed.

**What happens next?** The DEQ will consider any comments and determine if those comments should be specifically addressed in a final version of the permit. DEQ will respond in writing to all public comments.